The Myall Koala & Environment Group Inc.

Presidents Report 2026

This will be my last report as President. I have been the Treasurer and then President of the group for about 10 years and it has been a privilege to lead the group. As many of you know I am also President of the Winda Woppa Preservation Association and am a member of MidCoast Councils Open Coast Coastal Management Plan Reference Group. These groups as well as other council and community group interactions can be quite time consuming. My wife Kit and I are also spending more time going back and forth to Sydney for family commitments.

It has been another busy year for MKEG. Following are some of the highlights.

Koalas

The MCC Koala Safe Spaces Program is ongoing. It was encouraging to hear that although we no longer have Koalas in HN/TG we do have them in surrounding areas. MCC has been conducting surveys in Pindimar and other parts of the south MCC area. There are many pockets of healthy Koala populations in the MCC area which are still being discovered thanks to better monitoring techniques such as drones and Koala detection dogs.

We continue to support the Port Stephens Koala Hospital who do great work in rescuing and rehabilitating Koalas back to the wild where possible.

Bird Monitoring

The group's annual survey of Little Terns, Pied Oyster Catchers and other birds was carried out from October to February in conjunction with MidCoast Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service and DPIE. It was a good breeding season this year for Corrie Island. A full report has been prepared and distributed by Trish Blair who also did a great presentation prior to one of our meetings.

Ann Woods Memorial Student Grant

Last year we received a $10,000 bequest from the estate of our treasured member, Ann Woods. We decided to establish the Ann Woods Memorial Student Grant with Newcastle University. This grant is for $5,000 and will used over 5 years at $1,000 per year. The grant is to go to an honours student who is studying birds in our region. The grant is to aid with their research and possibly attend a local conference. We will get updates on the work being done every year. Thanks to Trish Blair for helping organise this.

Bitou Busters

The Bitou Busters sessions are always well attended, and I thank all participants for their enthusiasm and hard work. In the last 12 months numerous sites in Winda Woppa and Hawks Nest have been targeted. Thanks to Trish Blair, Adrienne Ingram and Sharon Taylor for their efforts in co-ordinating the group.

Myall River Fair

We did not attend the 2 Myall River Fairs held in the last 12 months. The committee is assessing which events to attend in 2026/2027.

Pindimar Market Day

We attended the Pindimar Market Day in late October. The market day was well attended, and we had some great interaction with the public who had a lot of questions about our local environment. We gave away trees, had a raffle and a guessing competition. We will attend the market day again in November 2026.

Hawks Nest Habitat Walk

Our Hawks Nest Habitat Walk is almost complete. The 2 main interpretive signs are installed near Jimmys Beach Caravan Park opposite the playground area and 8 A4 habitat signs are installed along the walk. We have recently installed a number of plant signs along the walk but still have about 20 to go. These will be done over the next few weeks. Thanks to everyone who has been involved in this project, especially Kit Streamer and Trish Blair. Also, thanks to Rob Hughes for preparing the posts for the plant signs and to Rob and Mike Thew for helping put them in the ground. A special thanks must also go to Rosemary Lucas whose kind donation made it all possible and to Christian Patterson who developed the concept for the walk.

Council Submissions

During the year several major submissions were prepared by Ian Morphett regarding developments in our area. Ian also attended Land and Environment Court hearings.

Currently two major projects require submissions being the Sanderling Ave unit development and Wanya Rd 516 manufactured home estate. We need to continue our efforts to ensure suitable sustainable development in our area.

Finally, I want to thank all our members, volunteers, our committee and the executive, for all their hard work. Without this we would not exist as a group. We do need new blood to step up and help guide the future direction of the group, however. I would be pleased to talk to anyone who would like to be involved or has suggestions about future activities and major projects.

We look forward to a great year ahead and hope we can have a positive influence on things happening in our area

Richard Streamer

President

The Myall Koala & Environment Group Inc.